

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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KRUG ISSUES 1949 ALASKA
HERRING CATCH QUOTAS

Secretary of the Interior J. A. Krug today issued 1949 catch limitations for the Alaska herring fishery. The quotas were issued as an amendment to the Alaska commercial fishery regulations, authorized by a Congressional Act of June 6, 1924.

The 1949 herring catch quotas limit the take to 200,000 barrels (based on 250 lbs. to the barrel) for Southeastern Alaska waters, 250,000 barrels for the Kodiak Island area, and 150,000 barrels for the Prince William Sound-Resurrection Bay area. The legal herring seasons run from June 10 to October 15, varying in each quota area.

The new catch limitations have been revised downward for the first time since drastic quota restrictions were imposed in 1942 to rebuild Alaska's depleted herring fishery.

Fish and Wildlife Service biologists, who determine catch quotas by scientific studies of the abundance of the age groups in each year's herring catch, expect an unusually low run of mature herring in Alaskan waters this season because of several years of unsuccessful spawning.

They are able to predict with considerable accuracy the number and age of the various classes within the stock of fish, and the number that may be safely caught during the next season. The abundance of herring fluctuates radically because of natural factors beyond the control of science, such as currents, temperature and food. And while the Service can set the most favorable yield of herring each year by establishing the controlled catch quotas, they cannot guarantee that the commercial fishermen are going to take that much.

The 1948 quotas were 400,000 barrels for Southeastern Alaska waters, 390,000 barrels for the Kodiak Island area, and 180,000 barrels for the Prince William Sound-Resurrection Bay area.

Because of the reduced catch limitation for Southeastern Alaska, the Territory's oldest and most productive herring fishery, the Service believes that some reduction plants and boats will not operate this season.

The annual value of Alaskan herring products is more than \$6 million. There are about 15 reduction plants, employing 500 shoresmen, in the Territory. About 300 fishermen work the seine boats.

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